United Nations E/CONF.105/44

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2017

Original: English

Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names)

National minority languages and regional languages in Germany

Summary**

The official language in all parts of Germany is standard German. The languages of four national minorities that reside in Germany — the Danes, the Frisians, the Sorbs and the German Sinti and Roma — are officially recognized as minority languages.

Low German has the status of a regional language, which ensures the protection of that language in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Jörn Sievers, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN). The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/44/CRP.44.E/CONF.105/1.

17-09326 (E) 140717

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